

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
December 27, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

INVOCATION

ROLLCALL: Mr. Pettit was absent, all other members were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval December 27, 2013. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2013. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Widing. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE: No report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mrs. Miano stated that we received a call regarding a boil order for the subdivision of Southbrook and Young America. They have been under a boil order since December 23rd. They are still unable to use their water. Mrs. Miano called Utilities Incorporated and found out that they have to a water system repaired. They will find out today if their water is drinkable. Mr. Goralczyk noted that this area has had several main breaks. The company was not properly pumping their water, Mr. Lake has written them citations. He also stated that the pipes are over 50 years old. The company tried for a 95.5% rate increase but they received a 33% increase. Mr. Goralczyk told the company they were not doing any maintenance, basically just patching and repairing. They needed to come up with a plan. Mr. Goralczyk stated ever since they have taken over the utility they have turned the pressure up on it and the water mains have just been breaking from the weather and because of age. Mr. Goralczyk believes that Indiana American Water is investing more than Utilities Inc. Fire Chief Yerga added that the fire hydrants pressures are at bare minimum, as far as the fire department is concerned. About 95% of hydrants in the area Utilities Inc. services are out of date. When the fire department makes trips to those subdivisions they have to carry special equipment because if they use the fire hydrants it may result in a water main break, the system is that depilated. When they had ISO testing they pick fire hydrants in the town for insurance service rating, a hydrant was tested in that area and it was inadequate. Mr. Hardaway asked Mr. Bushemi to contact Utilities Inc. Mr. Hardaway stated that if Utilities Inc. will not work this holiday to fix the problem in Southbrook and Young America they need to turn off the meters and give people free water.

Mrs. Miano stated that as last year she would like again to have the Town Hall used as a warming center until 10 p.m.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: No report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Miano read a letter from the Portillos Group from December 18, 2013 to Chief Joseph Petruch. The letter regarded a recent burglary at their store and Merrillville Police Department's urgency and professional response.

Mr. Goralczyk stated that they need to have another executive session on January 7th to finalize the other offer on the FOP contract.

PARKS & RECREATION: No report.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Lake provided updates regarding Stormwater: Stormwater Resource Center's ribbon cutting ceremony was successful. NiSWAG meeting that took place last Thursday was also successful. Mr. Lake submitted all of the parcel data for the Stormwater fee billing for next year, and there are 13,020 billable parcels. At the December 16, 2013 IDEM meeting they reviewed our draft Quality of Life Plan, a mission statement is needed and a committee needs to be formed. On January 3rd, Mr. Lake will be reviewing The Stormwater Master Plan with staff from Christopher Burke Engineering.

Mr. Hardaway stated the last day for cap program is a week from today. We have one bench and we are halfway towards the second one.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS: No report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report.

UTILITY LIAISON: No report.

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION: No report.

ADA COMPLIANCES: No report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES: No report.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 13-53: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 budget within certain categories. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and second Mrs. Barron. No public comment. The motion was approve 6/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-54: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, fixing the salaries and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2014. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Widing. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-55: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Fire and Hazmat fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, for the year 2013 not included in the current budget. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and second by Mrs. Barron. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-56: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 budget within certain categories. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Goralczyk. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 13-44: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies within the Merrillville Fire Territory Operating Fund, of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the Year 2013. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Widing. The motion was approve by a 6/0 voice vote.

Res 13-45: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 budget within the Parks Non Reverting Fund. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Widing. The motion was approve by a 6/0 voice vote.

Res 13-46: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 budget within the Motor Vehicle Fund. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and second by Mrs. Barron. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

Res 13-47: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 budget within the Parks General Fund. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and second Mr. Hardaway. The motion was approve by a 6/0 voice vote.

Res 13-48: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 budget within the Recycling Grant Fund. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and second by Mrs. Barron. The motion was approve by a 6/0 voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Goralczyk stated that at the last the meeting they did not bring up appointments to the boards and commissions. The following positions are open:

- Stormwater
- Board and Zoning Appeals
- Police Commission

The letters need to be in by the dateline of, Friday January 10, 2013. No action will be taken until the January 14, 2014. Mr. Bushemi noted that these positions do not become vacant at the end of year they are still held until they have a successor

Mr. Hardaway stated that the turning signal at 57th was rejected. But there were timing adjustments made and there should be a reduction in congestion. In the spring they will come back to fix the median and monitor the area.

NEW BUSINESS: No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: All public comment is recorded on cassette tape and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**TOWN HALL CLOSED, December 31, 2013 at 1:00 P.M. for
New Year's Eve**

TOWN HALL CLOSED, January 1, 2014 for New Year's Day

Police Commission Executive Meeting, January 3, 2014 @ 7:30 a.m.

Police Commission Meeting, January 3, 2014 @ 8:00 a.m.

Stormwater Management Board Meeting, January 7, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

Plan Commission Workshop, January 7, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Town Council Meeting, January 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Carol Miano, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer